



May 2, 2008

Washington State Mental Health Counselors, Marriage and Family Therapists, and  
Social Workers Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

LOCATION: Department of Health  
Creekside Three at CenterPoint  
20435 72<sup>nd</sup> Avenue South, Second Floor, Room 2  
Kent, Washington 98032

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Carl Greenberg, LMFT, Chair  
Alison Hadley, LICSW  
Joseph Price, LMFT, LMHC, Ph.D.  
Christine Bear, LMHC  
Patty Matsumoto, LMHC

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Philip Brown, LICSW, LMFT, Ph.D., Vice-Chair  
Susan Bogni, Public Member  
Joyce Gaidies, Public Member

STAFF PRESENT: Karen Kelley, Deputy Executive Director  
Leslie Magby, Acting Program Manager

AAG PRESENT: Geoff Hymans, Assistant Attorney General

On May 2, 2008 the Washington State Mental Health Counselors, Marriage and Family Therapists, and Social Workers Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes (committee) met in Kent, Washington at Department of Health, Creekside Three at CenterPoint, 20435 72nd Avenue South, Room 2, in Kent Washington 98032. In accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, the meeting agenda was e-mailed to members of the Licensed Counselors Listserv.

## OPEN SESSION

### 1. CALL TO ORDER – Carl Greenberg, LMFT, Chair

9:03 a.m.

1.1 The agenda was approved as published.

1.2 The February 15, 2008 meeting minutes were approved as published.

### 2. MANAGER REPORTS

2.1 Committee members reviewed current licensing statistics provided by Leslie Magby:

#### Marriage & Family Therapists

Active	1,061
Expired	197
Pending	39

#### Mental Health Counselors

Active	4,610
Expired	766
Pending	188

#### Social Workers

Active	3,179
Expired	563
Pending	214

#### Total Licensed Counselors

Active	8,850
Expired	1,526
Pending	441

#### Registered Counselors

Active	21,302
Expired	37,347
Pending	323

2.2 Committee members reviewed the current disciplinary statistics:

#### OPEN CASE STEP REPORT

April 16, 2008

#### MARRIAGE AND FAMILY

Investigation	6
Case Disposition	2
Pending Service	1

**TOTAL NUMBER OF OPEN CASES: 9**

#### MENTAL HEALTH

Investigation	26
Case Disposition	12
Pending Service	5
Scheduling Order	1

**TOTAL NUMBER OF OPEN CASES: 44**

**SOCIAL WORKER**

Investigation	13
Case Disposition	12
Pending Service	5
Scheduling Order	1

**TOTAL NUMBER OF OPEN CASES: 31**

**TOTAL NUMBER OF LICENSED COUNSELOR OPEN CASES: 84**

**REGISTERED COUNSELOR**

Assessment	9
Investigation	75
Case Disposition	84
Pending Service	31
Prepare Default Order	3
Documents Served	6

**TOTAL NUMBER OF OPEN CASES: 208**

- 2.3** The budget reports were shared for all three licensed counselor professions. March 2008 program balances were as follows:

Marriage and Family Therapists	\$100,094
Mental Health Counselors	(\$299,897)
Social Workers (LASW & LICSW)	(\$30,812)

Karen Kelley shared proposed fee increases for counselor professions to committee members. Four new associate counselor credentials, created from recent legislation, will add to future budget and revenue totals. Ms. Kelley explained the proposed fee increases are relatively low in comparison with other professions. There is a newly added UW library access \$25 fee for LMHCs, LICSWs, and LASWs.

Lisa Erickson asked if expenses will increase with the new associate credentials. Ms. Kelley answered yes but explained the overall budget will eventually even out. Geoff Hymans explained that attorney general costs are often unpredictable, which causes fluctuation in their professions' expenses also. Lisa Erickson mentioned the budgets and data presented are confusing because the social worker and mental health counselor budget totals are both in the negative but their fee increases are identical.

- 2.4** Karen Kelley provided legislative updates regarding HB1103 which creates a 5-year pilot project for the Medical Quality Assurance Commission and Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission. HB1103 allows these commissions to have control of their budget and hiring of staff. The Chiropractic Quality Assurance Commission and Dental Quality Assurance Commission made the decision to not participate in the pilot. These pilot projects also allow the commission to make changes in the credentialing and disciplinary processes.

For inquiries regarding the new counselor legislation, there is a specific email address set up: [counselorleg@doh.wa.gov](mailto:counselorleg@doh.wa.gov).

**3. RULES UPDATE**

- 3.1** Leslie Magby provided an update regarding the sexual misconduct rule (WAC 246-809-049) which addresses patient safety. The CR-103 was filed on March 19, 2008 and the rule became effective on April 19, 2008.

- 3.2** Leslie Magby provided a copy of the CR-103 rule-making order for WAC 246-809-240 to committee members. This rule changes the process for taking the national examination for licensed mental health counselors. The new process would allow applicants to apply directly to the National Board of Certified Counselors (NBCC) after the completion of their master's degree, while they are still gaining supervision hours.

**4. RULEMAKING DISCUSSION FOR NEW LEGISLATION - MODIFYING CREDENTIALING STANDARDS FOR COUNSELORS (2SHB 2674)**

- 4.1** Laura Groshong, LICSW led a discussion regarding a supervisory experience attestation as an alternative to documentation, for registered counselors who meet all other requirements for a licensed counselor credential. Ms. Groshong feels this would remove a potential barrier for registered counselors to become licensed and believes there should be a 4-6 month window for registered counselors with master's degrees to have this option.

In statute, it is stated that supervision experience requirements criteria will be established by rule. Mr. Hymans advised that the department create a rule addressing this as a requirement. He also explained to committee members that the ability to document supervision hours is a key proof element in cases pertaining to supervision requirement violations. **ACTION** - Karen Kelley will look at current forms and rules to determine if a rule change is necessary.

- 4.2** Karen Kelley discussed with committee members the process involved in the development of rules for the new counselor credentials. **ACTION** - Ms. Kelley will create a draft version of the new rules and email to committee members for their input before the next meeting.

**5. ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL REPORT – Geoff Hymans, AAG**

This item was removed from the agenda.

**6. DISCUSSION OF ADVANCED GENERALIST EXAMINATION CONTENT & CLINICAL EXAMINATION CONENT OUTLINE – Carl Greenberg, LMFT, Chair**

Carl Greenberg led a discussion of the content outlines for the Advanced Generalist Examination and the Clinical Examination. These examinations are required for licensure as a social worker. The exam material has not been reviewed since licensure was created in 2001.

Alison Hadley moved to create a sub-committee to review the exam material. The motion passed. A sub-committee was created to include Alison Hadley, Philip Brown, Laura Groshong, Hoyt Suppes, and Celeste Carey. Alison's initial thought is that the content of the examinations are appropriate and thorough based on the accreditation of ASWB.

**7. PUBLIC COMMENT**

The committee will hear comments from the public and the public may request items to be placed on a future meeting agenda.

**8. CONSENT AGENDA**

The items listed under the consent agenda (informational items) are considered routine agency matters and were approved by a single motion of the committee without separate discussion.

- 8.1** April 2008 issue of “The Sentinel News for Department Employees.”
- 8.2** “We Aspire” Health Professions Quality Assurance March 2008 monthly report.
- 8.3** “Now, Not Just Anyone Can Be A Counselor” Seattle Times Editorial, March 26, 2008.
- 8.4** American Association of State Counseling Boards (AASCB) January 2008 Conference Minutes.
- 8.5** AASCB Listserv March 2008 Survey Results – Overview of Continuing Education Requirements.

**9. DISCUSSION OF LICENSED INDEPENDENT CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKERS WITH MEDICAL STAFF PRIVILEGES ORDERING RESTRAINTS**

Committee members reviewed a request from St. Joseph clinic for the committee to provide an opinion regarding LICSWs assessing the need for restraints and ordering restraints. Committee members did not formulate an official opinion. Carl Greenberg moved to respond to St. Joseph in the following manner: “The committee has reviewed your request and has decided not to render an opinion at this time.” The motion passed.

**10. TWO-YEAR RENEWAL CYCLE**

Committee members discussed a two-year renewal cycle for licensed counselors. Carl Greenberg feels it would significantly cut costs if the renewal period was every two years versus annually. **ACTION –** Karen Kelley will look into the possibility of changing the renewal schedule at the same time of the fee increase changes.

**11. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- On future agendas, committee members would like to have a “Review Work Assignments” item, given by the Program Manager.

**12. ADJOURNMENT –** The meeting adjourned at 12:34 p.m.

**Meeting Schedule for 2008:**

September 5, 2008 - Kent, Washington  
December 12, 2008 - Kent, Washington

Submitted by:

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Betty Moe, Program Manager  
Washington State Mental Health Counselors, Marriage and Family Therapists  
and Social Worker Advisory Committee

Approved by:

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Carl Greenberg, LMFT, Chair  
Washington State Mental Health Counselors, Marriage and Family Therapists  
and Social Worker Advisory Committee